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# Bosnia Herzegovina

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This article is about the officially demonetized and defaced issue of 1906. These stamps were defaced and appeared on the stamp market in Vienna after the collapse of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. They were defaced by a series of punched holes or a blue crayon mark.

This issue is the most picturesque set of stamps of Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. They were designed by Prof. Koloman Moser and engraved by F Schirnbock. The day of issue was 1 Nov. 1906. They remained in use until 3 Dec. 1912 when they were demonetized. There have been many articles written about the disposal of the remainders of this issue. These stamps were printed by the Austrian State Printing

Works in Vienna and then shipped to Bosnia (Sarajevo). However, it is quite evident that not all of them had been shipped prior to the date of demonetization. The remainders no longer being of importance remained forgotten on the shelves of the Printing Works. They were discovered in the early 1920's, well after the collapse of the monarchy. They could no longer be sent to Bosnia so the question was what to do with them. It is difficult to understand why they were not disposed of in the usual manner of demonetized remainders; it was decided that they should be defaced by a series of holes. It was then that a punch was set up which contained a set of 12 pairs of 2-hole punches. This device could perforate one row of a full sheet of stamps horizontally. The individuals performing the work were none too careful and some sheets were perforated vertically. These remainders also were defaced with a Blue crayon marker.

To destroy these stamps and properly clear the records they were counted and properly recorded.

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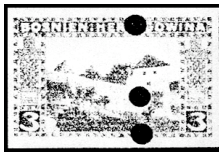
## Stamps punched with holes

Perforated stamps				Imperforate stamps			
1 heller	500	30 heller	83,000	2 heller	3,000	25 heller	7,500
2 heller	27,000	35 heller	12,500	3 heller	15,000	30 heller	40,000
3 heller	30,000	40 heller	8,000	5 heller	20,000	35 heller	4,000
5 heller	70,000	45 heller	42,500	6 heller	2,500	40 heller	1,500
6 heller	22,500	50 heller	25,500	10 heller	90,000	45 heller	2,000
10 heller	85,000	1 kroner	17,500	20 heller	3,000	50 heller	2,500
20 heller	10,000	2 kroner	750				
25 heller	22,500	5 kroner	12,500				

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## Stamps defaced with blue crayon marker

Perforated stamps				Imperforate stamps			
2 heller	3,000	45 heller	12,000	35 heller	100	1 kroner	3,000
6 heller	8,000	1 kroner	5,000	50 heller	150	5 kroner	2,500
20 heller	5,000	2 kroner	6,000				
40 heller	2,000	5 kroner	14,000				



It is plausible to assume that these stamps could have remained forgotten on the shelves in the printing works. But questions remain:

- Why were these stamps, which had been demonetized for so long a time defaced?
- Why were they not disposed of as other stamps of this period?

- How did they come to appear on the stamp market in Vienna in the early 1920's?

I imagine the answer's to these questions will just remain a mystery.

Ref Donat Post, Dr Viktor Weinert

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